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The Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1861.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The reader of the Message will be sure to turn his eye hastily over its first half—the usual account of the condition of our foreign relations, &c.—to come upon that theme which now occupies the thoughts and taxes the ingenuity of every man in the land—the relation of the Slavery Question to the War. If he is loyal, preferring the preservation of the Union and the vindication of the Constitution to all else, he will be gratified by the position that the President has assumed. It is, in our own language and in brief, this:

I have obeyed and executed such laws as Congress has made.

If Congress should deem it wise to pass a new and more comprehensive act for confiscating the property (slaves) of rebels, I will assent to it.

The Union must be preserved at all hazards, and to preserve it, if Slavery must go, it go.

We must not be in haste to say that extraordinary measures must be adopted: but when the necessity for such is apparent, let us face them.

Such is our reading of the few and pregnant sentences in which the bearing of the Slavery question upon our national affairs is discussed. These assertions and the cognate recommendation that the confiscated lands be colonized in some place of genial climate, at the expense of the Government, or the sum total of what our Chief Magistrate has to say. We are not disappointed. If the President, always loyal, always honest, far-sighted and sincere, has gone beyond the bounds which, mentally, we had marked out as those within which his recommendations would be confined, is that atmosphere at Washington where the influence of the old *regime* is not dead, where the worship of man-selling has not until the incoming of the Republican Administration, a part of every platform and every creed, where slavery has reigned without question of its supremacy in the halls of the Church and State, there was a chance, made more dangerous by the political position of a part of the Cabinet, and aware of complete comprehension of the point of the people, that the real sentiments of the President would be suppressed; and that the hopes of the fighting masses which point to the final emplyoment of all the rightful agencies that may be invoked to put down rebellion, and to the removal of the cause of the strife, would be disappointed. The danger has been surmounted. The cautious language which Mr. Lincoln employs, does not hide from us, who know the deep moral convictions of the man, the purpose that he has in view, nor the holy zeal, which he must feel, of that giant loyalty that has at last brought war and desolation into this land. He has come, if not fully up to our advanced position, at least within easy hail of those who have been looking anxiously back to see what progress he would make. Congress will take him at his word. The members of that body, if we may judge by what has transpired already, will interpret his meaning in a way with which we even shall be content. Looking out from the porch of the Capitol, over the heads of one hundred and fifty thousand men who defend the approaches to the city, against an enemy that animated and impelled by Slavery; legislating within hearing of rebel drums which call the insurgent masses to a campaign for the destruction of the Constitution, that Slavery may rule; daily witnesses of the atrocities to which Slavery resorts, and of the almost superhuman efforts that the people have been compelled to put forth to guard against its attacks; cognizant in their daily walks of the brutalizing effects of Slavery upon those who are brought within its reach, it would be an assault upon their patriotism and sincerity and Christianity to say that, confining themselves within the limits that the Constitution, rightly construed, they will not deal this monster blow, *for the Union's sake*, that will send it a long way toward its death. In some way or another, conquering prejudice and removing differences, they will. We know not what form their legislation will take, but of this we are assured, and the Message is a warrant for what we say, that the deliberate action of the Representatives of the People, the President will gladly acquiesce.

And so we make progress. One after another the difficulties in the way of a glorious and enduring triumph go down before the expressed will and firm determination of the people. Thus our reverses and though galling and mournful though they have been, are turned to the glory of the cause. Thus the sentiment of Human Liberty, which, thank God! slavery has not been able to crush out, gathers new strength and vitality. We foresee the end, perhaps a long way off, to be reached only through toil and blood, and after a struggle that will forever be a conspicuous landmark in the history of the world—a Republic without a traitor or a slave.

THE MISSOURI HEGIRA.

Just now our State is receiving a large accession to our population from our sister State of Missouri. They are coming in upon us by hundreds every week, the refugees driven from their homes and leaving their all, in their haste to escape from the frightful evils of rapine and murder, initiated by the infamies of Claiborne, and now deliberately proposed in the recent proclamation of Gen. Price. The Missouri rebel leaders, and those conspiring with them to fasten the State in the fetters of the rebellion, have lost all humanity, and even the semblance of soldiers have come down to the role of blood thirsty robbers and malignant ruffians.

The alarm among the people of Missouri became, and thousands are fleeing before the borders to seek homes in the free North. Mark this, that few if any who are active co-workers with the rebellion go with them. They would not do this were the difficulties of so doing even less than they are; even rebel leaders further South have placed their wives and families in the midst of Northern communities. Instinctively it is recognized that the only place is far without the shadows of the prison house now shaking with a mighty earthquake.

What is the duty of our own State and City to these refugees? The answer is easy to give. They must be welcomed, and that generously. In addition to feasted as to receive these refugees most numerously, systematic and should be poured in from other States. Let Chicago give a directness to this humane call, made imperative by the vicissitudes of war. We make the proposition that the citizens, our large-hearted citizens be sent to make a direct inquiry as to the number and needs of those from Missouri. All who remember the gentleman's thorough work in the cause of the Great Northern Sanitary Commission, will feel that he has demonstrated himself to be of the first class, will agree that he will not take his seat in Congress, at the present, if at all this winter, having duties that are quite as important as commander of a regiment of his loyal neighbors.

☞ *Scene*—The headquarters of Gen. Paine at Paducah. Enter elderly Kentuckian in quest of his fugitive chattel.

Gen. Paine—Well, sir, are you and your family loyal?

Kentuck.—I have one son in the rebel army. There are two at home.

Gen. P.—Well, are you and your boys at home aiding the Government?

Kentuck.—No, sir; we remain strictly neutral.

Gen. P.—Then you must excuse me if I remain *strictly neutral* between you and your nigger. I cannot allow you within my lines.

Exit Kentuck, in disgust, deeming this a Paine-ful application of strict neutrality.

☞ Geo. Opdyke, the telegraph informs us, is elected Mayor of New York; a great triumph, indeed, and still greater if the following be true—a single selection from a large pile of abuse in the New York *Herald:*

OPDYKE AND EMANCIPATION.

All who desire that the Union army shall inscribe upon their banners the war cry of emancipation had better vote for Opdyke for Mayor; but such of our citizens as are anxious for a restoration of the Union will give Opdyke a wide margin on election day, and vote for some other man for Mayor.

☞ The oyster trade of New York annually, for several years preceding the war, ranged between fifteen to twenty millions of dollars. The war has reduced it nearly one-half, from interference with the sources of supply, and the fact that many of the oystermen have gone to the wars, and more particularly because so large a share of the most liberal consumers of stewed and raw are now living on hard bread.

☞ The Emperor Nap. has delighted his people, and surprised the world, by his recent surrender of the imperial prerogative of extra and supplementary credits. As indicative of the importance of the measure it is stated that in 1859 this supplementary expenditure amounted to 80,000,000f; in 1860, to 115,000,000f, and during the present year, already, to 1,000,000,000f.

☞ The Missouri *Democrat* says that on Wednesday last, J. G. Buell, a lawyer, and Edward Murphy, surveyor of St. Francois county, Missouri, had a rencountre in Farmington, in which shots were exchanged without injury, when Mr. Murphy drew a bowie knife, and stabbed Mr. Buell, fatally, it is supposed. The cause of the difficulty was not stated. Both gentleman are highly respected.

☞ Think of it, the amount of free talk that Washington is to hear, in the course of the forthcoming lecture series, which announces the names of Messrs. Henry Ward Beecher, Greeley, Wendell Phillips, Emerson, Chaplin, Bayard Taylor, and other able and eloquent men, who have never been heard in that city.

☞ From its former condition of misery at cotton prospects, the London *Times* has passed to a stage of comparative content at what it avows to be after all a "blessing in disguise, the short supply of the staple having answered the valuable end of working off a large overplus of cotton goods.

☞ The following State appointments have been made in Indiana:

Dr. C. W. Chilvers, Superintendent of the Jeffersonville Railroad, has been appointed Director of the Southern Penitentiary, vice John W. Ray, appointed Col. of the 49th regiment.

Dr. Helm, of Rushville, is appointed Sinking Fund Commissioner, vice J. Jenkinson, resigned.

☞ There is one infallible test. Every Federal commander who sympathizes with slavery, will put that sympathy foremost in his army orders. His pro-slavery proclivities will tinge all his military acts.

☞ On Sunday evening fifty five rebel prisoners of war arrived in St. Louis from Linn county. This increase swells the number now in the St. Louis military prison to one hundred and fifteen.

☞ Some of the prominent Missouri Unionists greatly deprecate the extensive publicity given in loyal papers to Price's late proclamation, saying it was just what he wanted.

☞ The lake fleet of revenue cutters, ordered for coast service, were to reach Montreal on Wednesday, (to-day,) and make all exertions to get through before the close of navigation.

☞ On Saturday the house of D. Boase, near Galena, was destroyed by fire, with its contents. Loss $2,000, partially insured.

☞ The residence of Mr. Bayley, near La Crosse was struck by lightning a few days since and a family of six more or less injured, some of them having their clothes entirely burned off.

☞ A young Clevelander named McKenna, a volunteer, was accidently killed by the discharge of the gun of a comrade at Fayette Court House, Va., a few days since.

☞ The steamer Traveller, which recently left this city to go to the lower lakes, is ashore near the Straits.

☞ Near Beaver Creek, in this State, Deputy Sheriff Ford was fired on and instantly killed by a man named Scearce he was attempting to arrest, a few days since.

☞ The lump of bad fat, Humphrey Marshall, is now in the field as a Brigadier in the rebel service. He stands alone since Falstaff's day in his peculiar style.

☞ A black boy named Dabney has just been found in Jackson county, Missouri, who, seven years ago, was kidnapped from Quincy, in this State, where his parents now reside.

☞ The Canadians are fortifying near Toronto; two batteries to be erected, each mounting six heavy guns.

☞ Gov. Gamble, of Missouri, has given a Lieutenant Colonelcy to H. Thompkins, of the 25th Illinois regiment.

☞ Commodore Wilkes has gone to his country seat on Staten Island, to spend a little season in family repose.

☞ A new regiment is to be added to Col. Hovey's Normal Brigade.

☞ On Monday, Gen. Halleck reviewed 18,000 troops at Benton Barracks, St. Louis.

☞ Twenty-two hundred men are employed at the Charlestown Navy Yard.

Whereabouts of Zollicoffer.

[Louisville Correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial, Dec. 1st.]

The rebel chieftain, Zollicoffer, has had almost as much uncertainty of location in the eyes of 'newspaper readers, during the last two months, as the notorious Jeff. Thompson. Since his retreat to the fastnesses of the Cumberland Gap, particularly, rumor has had him in succession at half a dozen different points. As early as ten days ago it was believed at headquarters in this city that he had joined his command to the main body of the rebel army under Gen. Johnston, and that it formed the right wing of the same. I combatted this belief at the time in my army correspondence, and positive information arrived here yesterday renews, at last, all doubts as to his recent movements and present whereabouts. In accordance with orders received previous to the uprising of the Kentucky Unionists, he fell back from the Gap, after leaving a small force, comprising about one-third of his brigade, to dispute the rumored advance of the Federals, and arrived at Knoxville about twelve days ago. His troops are a deplorable concition—destitute in rags, half-starved, and almost without transportation. But nevertheless he made but a short rest at Knoxville, and the bridge-burning on the East Tennessee and Georgia railroad having made transportation by rail between Knoxville and Nashville slow and tedious, he marched overland through Roane, Morgan, Fentress and Pickett counties, Tenn., via Kingston and Montgomery, about a week ago, and has since pushed onward through Albany and Monticello, Wayne county, and according to the latest accounts, had even crossed the Cumberland, and was making for Jamestown, Russell county.

A Movement in Kentucky.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, Dec. 3.]

We have news this morning, by way of Indianapolis, that an engagement is expected on the right wing of our army in Kentucky, between Breckinridge and Crittenden. The opposing forces, however, would seem to be at a very peaceable distance from each other. Breckinridge is at Hopkinsville, far-ther south than Bowling Green, and but twenty miles from the Tennessee line. Crittenden is at Cadiz, on the lower Green river, fifty miles from Hopkinsville in an air line.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

SECOND DAY IN CONGRESS.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

Another Tennessee Member.

HENRY C. BURNETT EXPELLED.

Big Seare at Charleston.

TALK OF BURNING THE CITY.

New York Municipal Election.

GEORGE OPDYKE MAYOR

Preparations at Cairo.

MOVEMENTS IN MISSOURI.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, December 3, 1861.

Advices from Fortress Monroe bring a detail of the Government dispatches received from Richmond on Monday, that the rebel Capital had been removed from Richmond to Nashville. Spies say that intense excitement was caused at Richmond by the decision, and this may have caused the change in purpose.

There are from 15,000 to 20,000 troops at Richmond.

Eight thousand five hundred men from Fitz John Porter's, Smith's, and McCall's Divisions to-day attempted to cut off the body of about 2,000 rebel cavalry who have recently, from time to time, appeared in the vicinity of Hunter's Hill, but the rebels had fled. Only a small picket force of about twenty was discovered.

The bill to be introduced by Senator Trumbull, of Illinois, provides for absolute forfeiture of all property of rebels who are beyond the reach of Federal process. All property in insurrectionary districts to be seized and appropriated by the military powers, and that found in the districts where it can be reached by legal process to be confiscated through the, courts. All the proceeds of property confiscated, after payment of expense, and just claims of loyal creditors, to be applied to the reimbursement of loyal citizens deposited of their property by the rebels, and the balance by paying the expenses of suppressing insurrection.

The rebel owners of slaves are to forfeit all their rights to them, *the negroes to become free*, and it is made the duty of the President to provide for their colonization so far as they may be willing to go in some tropical country, where they can have the protection of the Government, and be secured in their rights as freemen.

The Senate will order a committee of inquiry whether disloyal persons occupy seats in that body. Bright is in danger. In Senator Wilkinson's bill, to be introduced to-morrow.

Section one grants all rights and privileges heretofore granted to officers, musicians and privates of the regular army to volunteers of the same, who are to form, and to be hereafter considered part of the regular army.

Second section provides that all volunteer regiments be considered as regiments of infantry and numbered in the same series as the regular regiments of infantry, and the oldest volunteer regiments to be numbered 30th, and the next oldest 21st, and so on.

Sections third and fourth apply same principles to cavalry and artillery.

Section fifth provides that promotions hereafter be made as heretofore, except that no regard be had to the fact that the vacancy to be filled occurs in an old regular, or a new volunteer regiment or that an officer to be promoted belongs to an old or new regiment.

Section sixth provides that all commissions issued by the Governors to volunteer officers be considered the same as if issued by the President, and officers to take rank according to date of their commission.

Section seventh provides that the President fill all vacancies henceforth occasioned in volunteer regiments.

W. G. George, of Indiana, is appointed Adjutant General to General Milroy. The reports that Col. Kerrigan was sentenced to be shot, are utterly groundless. He has not yet been tried by a court martial.

Two deserters, Wm. McDeal and Jno. Worsdal, came within McCall's lines yesterday, from Centreville, the first is an English boy, of 20 years, the second a Scotch lad of 19 years, both belonged to the 6th Louisiana regiment, Col. Seymour's. They say that 60,000 men are encamped at Centreville, under Gens. Beauregard and Kirby Smith, the camps being 6 or 7 miles long, and 3 or 4 wide.

The prisoners taken by Gen. Blenker are Wm. H. Dennis, and Alex. Smith, of Rectortown. Both were born in Fauquier county, Virginia, and belonged to Company H, 8th regiment, 2nd Wise Dragoons. The troop they belonged to was led by Lieut. Moorehead, and consisted of about thirty horse.

They left their camp, two miles this side of Centreville, for foraging purposes. Another part of the troop was engaged further distant. A later report adds that a picket guard of 12 men of a New York German regiment were captured by rebel cavalry, the cavalry getting around them through woods.

FROM CAIRO.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

CAIRO, December 3, 1861.

Seven car loads of war munitions, of improved patterns, arrived here to-day from Pittsburgh.

A number of the Camp Jackson prisoners will arrive here to-night, on the steamer Iatan, from St. Louis. They are to be passed through our lines.

Commodore Foote and the balance of officers of the gunboat flotilla are also expected here to-night.

Part of the 4th Regiment Illinois cavalry, fully armed and equipped, arrived to-day. The balance will reach here to-morrow.

We have learned to-day that the fortifications now building at New Madrid will consist of a breastwork of 200 feet front, a range of bastion works, and a star fort, with some smaller defences.

Jesse K. Dubois, Auditor of State, was here to-day. He will visit Paducah to-morrow.

The order transferring the 49th Illinois regiment, Col. Haynie, to Shawneetown, has been countermanded.

FROM ST. LOUIS.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

ST. LOUIS, December 3, 1861.

A gentleman from Rolla states that the order against fugitive slaves entering camp is not observed there, the colored contrabands being treated as strange white persons are, neither allowed more liberty or restricted to less. The blacks, dismissed by Halleck's order, are just outside the lines, and that is all. They could easily get in again if pursued by rebel owners.

Gen. Pope is in command at Syracuse, and Sherman at Sedalia. The latter retains the gruff manner noticed in Kentucky.

There was trouble in Col. Olmstead's German Home Guard Regiment, to-day, caused by an attempt to transfer them to the State service. There was talk of mutiny and several companies were ordered to load, to reprose it. But the difficulty was adjusted by a suspension of the transfer till further investigation.

The river is full of ice to-day. All the camps in Missouri have been visited by snow-storms since Sunday.

FROM BALTIMORE.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

BALTIMORE, December 3, 1861.

The President's Message has been very generally read here, and is warmly approved by Union men. It is pronounced, unanimously an able and patriotic document admirably adapted to the times.

FROM CHARLESTON, S. C.

Great Excitement—Shall the City be Blown Up, Burned, or Surrendered?

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Mr. Butterfield, mate of the brig Gresada, who has been a prisoner at Charleston, has arrived here. He reports that the forts on Other and Phœnix Islands were evacuated and blown up on November 12th. Great excitement prevailed at Charleston, and a meeting was held as to the propriety of burning or surrendering the city. The Mayor was in favor of surrendering, and so were the people generally, but the Governor decided it must be burned.

NEW YORK CITY ELECTION.

Glorious Result—Opdyke Elected.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—The municipal election in this city, for a Mayor for two years, occurred to-day, and was a three-cornered fight with a close vote, with the following result indicated by the returns footed up at half-past 8 o'clock this evening:

George Opdyke (Republican)	25,269
C. Godfrey Gunther, (Tammany)	24,688
Fernando Wood, (Mozart)	24,066

Opdyke is elected.

XXXVIth CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, December 3, 1861.

SENATE.

The President's Message having been read, the Message and accompanying documents were ordered printed.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, offered a bill tendering the thanks of Congress to Commodore Dupont, and those under his command, for their recent victory at Port Royal. Laid aside formation of the Standing Committees.

On motion of Mr. FOSTER, of Conn., it was resolved that the Vice President appoint two members to fill vacancies in the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute, caused by the death of Senator Douglas and the expulsion of James M. Mason.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The President's Message was read.

Mr. MAYNARD, of Tenn., presented the credentials of Mr. Clemens, a Representative elect from the Fourth District of Tennessee. He briefly related the circumstances under which the election was held, saying that three members were elected in East Tennessee, men who declare for the National Constitution and for the flag under which they had hoped to die.

On motion, the credentials were referred to the Committee on Elections.

On motion of Mr. WASHBURNE, of Ill., the President's Message was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and his motion for printing 50,000 extra copies was referred to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. DUNN, of Ind., offered the following:

WHEREAS, Henry C. Burnett, a member of this House from Kentucky, is an open rebel in addition against the Government of the United States, therefore,

Resolved, That the said Henry C. Burnett be and he is hereby expelled from this House; and that the Governor of Kentucky be notified of his expulsion.

Resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed not to pay Burnett's salary which has accrued since the close of the last session.

Mr. WICKLIFFE, of Ky., said he had intended to prepare and submit a proposition something like an obituary notice of his colleague. [Laughter.] The latter was not, as he had contribution asserted, in armed rebellion, but heads a provisional government in Kentucky—a revolutionary government. He reported with the treatment of this Government to maintain the Union, nor satisfied with the course of his own State, he (Burnett) has assumed the important duty of organizing a rebel government for the tender protection of the lives, property, and liberty of the people of Kentucky, and in which he has employed Gen. Simon Buckner, who is not only somewhat assimilated in name but in the deeds of Simon Gheltrees, who once headed the Indians in Ky. Three times has the gallant State of Kentucky declared by overwhelming majorities, she would not leave the United States to go, after it was New Orleans and so-called "Southern Republic." Notwithstanding her repeated declarations for the Union, and in violation of the well known sentiments of the people of Ky., they had been told the object of the Convention and of the so-called Southern Confederacy was to relieve them from a despotism and to protect their rights, but we were deceived; we were told by the Executive of this so-called Southern Confederacy it was intended to protect the neutrality of Kentucky, which it was pretended would not be done by the Government of the United States. The Union men of Kentucky never did deny the right of the Federal Government to occupy its soil for the exercise of the purposes implied by the Constitution. Kentucky did acknowledge her obligations, and declared her intention to fulfill them. The proclamation of the Governor of Kentucky deceived the people, but the Legislature denounced it. Two messages of peace were sent to the Executive of the United States, and one to the President of the Southern Government, to know what was intended to be done with Kentucky. The former said it was intended to maintain the law and the Constitution, and that this was believed to be the will of the people of Kentucky. The latter declared that he intended to respect the neutrality of Kentucky as understood by the secession party of the State, but the Southern President did not tell them he had matured a plan to assail them at the different points, nor did he tell them there was on the statute book of the Southern government a law providing money and means, not to sustain Kentucky against oppression but to compel her into the Southern Confederacy against a majority of two-thirds of the entire State. The present provisional Governor of Kentucky was sent to see the government at Richmond. Meanwhile, Burnett is at the head of the new order of affairs, in the discharge of his duty, and an armed force has been gathered, composed of young, desperate, reckless men, commanded by Buckner. In conclusion, Mr. Wickliffe said: "With the blessing of God, I predict that by the 25th of December no rebel foot will be found on the soil of Kentucky." [Applause.]

The resolution for the expulsion of Burnett was adopted. Adjourned.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—This morning the pickets of Gen. Blenker's brigade were attacked, at Annandale, by a party of secession cavalry, when the latter drove our men back respectedly. Sharp firing took place, and the result was, one rebel was killed and two wounded and taken prisoners.

A most important order will soon be issued from Headquarters, informing the Governors of the several free States that no more regiments, batteries, or unattached companies, must be raised or received by them, except upon the requisition of the War Department. The regiments, &c., now forming, will be completed, unless it shall be deemed more advantageous to the service to assign the men already raised to incomplete organizations actually in the field.

General Superintendents of the volunteer and recruiting service will be appointed for all States, and recruiting in each will be directed upon the system pursued in the regular army. These Superintendents will be officers of the regular army—retired officers, if possible, or officers of militia not serving in the field. Depots for the collection and instruction of recruits, under the command of the Superintendent, will be established at the following places, and such other as shall be considered advantageous in each of the States. Those in the West are: Minnesota, Fort Snelling; Iowa, Davenport; Wisconsin, Madison; Missouri, Jefferson City or Benton Barracks; Michigan, Detroit; Illinois, Springfield; Indiana, Indianapolis; Ohio, Columbus, Kentucky, Louisville. The enlistment papers of the volunteers will be the same as for regulars. Clothing will be issued to them at the State depot. Commanders of regiments in the field, wanting troops, will make requisitions directly on the Superintendents of the State respective States. No more cavalry will be accepted by the Government, and it is the purpose of the Commanding General to muster out of the service all cavalry recruits in incomplete regiments, unless they will consent to come in as infantry.

The number of the cavalry already amounts to between sixty and seventy thousand—much more than the Government can use.

Information has been received here that one clause in the treaty with the Mexican Government provides for a loan of $10,000,000 by our Government, to be furnished in five annual sums of $2,000,000 each, in return for the mercantile advantages and transit of U. S. troops through Mexican territory.

Gen. McClellan is understood to have made the most urgent presentation to the President in favor of a regular and systematic exchange of prisoners. He will probably succeed in having his views approved and acted on.

There has been no advance of rebel pickets upon our lines, as has been stated. On the contrary, our pickets have advanced into the enemy's country.

McCall is moving towards Leesburg, and Gen. Smith and Gen. Porter are extending their lines forward, while McDowell and Franklin are watching the enemy's centre, which is growing weaker and weaker every day.

I am enabled to state in the most positive manner, that the struggle is over, and that the President's conservative policy is sustained by his Cabinet with entire unanimity.

No flag has been flying from the rebel batteries on the Lower Potomac for some time, until a few days since, when the Southern Confederacy flag was unfurled, and it is now displayed all along their line.

Secretaries Cameron and Seward were serenaded to-night, but only the latter appeared. He simply complimented the music, and stated that in ten days the country would rejoice at great news.

FIGHT NEAR ROLLA, MO.

Major Bowen Routs the Enemy with Great Loss—Further Trouble Apprehended.

ROLLA, Mo., Dec. 3.—Maj. Bowen, who left there Saturday last with 100 cavalry from Gen'l Wyman's brigade, in search of the notorious marauding rebel Freeman, was at Salem, last night. About 3 o'clock this morning he was attacked at that place by a gang of rebels under Colonels Freeman and Turner and after a sharp fight (the enemy holding one part of the town, and our forces another), the rebels were driven from the place and completely routed with a loss of some 10 killed and 30 wounded, besides a great many prisoners. Among the latter was one captain. Our loss is about 15 killed and wounded. Maj. Bowen holds the town, and reinforcements have been sent him. It is feared the enemy will rally in large numbers and overwhelm his command, as it is reported that from 2,000 to 3,000 of the enemy are in the vicinity.

FROM MISSOURI.

Reported Skirmish near Chilicothe —Movements in the Southwest.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 3.—Passengers by the North Missouri train report that it is rumored along the road that an Iowa regiment and a force of rebels under Col. Stein had met near Chillicothe, where a sharp skirmish took place, resulting in the rout of the rebels. It needs confirmation. Stein with his band are known to be somewhere in that neighborhood.

Advices from Rolla, dated December 2, say that two scouts arrived there from Springfield, and report that they heard on the road that McCulloch, after going a short distance southward, turned his course to the east for Ironton, or, as some thought, for Pocohontas, in Northeastern Arkansas. Afterward it was reported that he had passed four miles south of that place.

Capt. Washburn, of the Ninth Iowa, and Col. Vandever, stationed at Rolla, left Sullivan on Thursday, with twenty men, on a scouting expedition to the Southwest. They followed up the Braille river, and had a sharp skirmish with a party of rebels, taking all of them prisoners.

Col. Gustavus A. Smith, of the 55th Illinois regiment, is reported quite ill.

A gentleman from Osceola, last Saturday states that Price's army, at that place, is not over five thousand men. A large number of his troops had left him, or been sent of by him, and gone to the Arkansas river counties. Those at Osceola were in a destitute condition, and suffering greatly for want of clothing and provisions.

Interesting from the South — Rebel Accounts of Federal Movements.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The Richmond *Examiner*, of Friday, he 29th ult., contains the following telegrams:

CHARLESTON, Thursday, Nov. 28.—A courier who arrived this morning, says that a skirmish took place near Buckingham on Saturday last, between the Confederates and Union invaders. The Unionists attempted to land, but were driven off. One of our men was slightly wounded by a shell. It is reported that the enemy landed yesterday at Bennett's Point, at the month of the Ashebo river. Four Union steamers shelled Otto Island, north of Helena, on Monday, and then landed. They now hold entire possession of St. Helena Sound. A number of lights passed our bar on Monday night, and it is presumed that the Union fleet were en route South.

SAVANNAH, Nov. 28.—The papers of this morning state that Fort Pulaski yesterday threw a few shot and shell into the camp of the Federals on Tybee Island, which caused a Bull Run stampede to safer quarters. There were no Union vessels inside the bar, and five outside.

LYNCHBURG, Va., Nov. 28.—Floyd's command expects to go into winter quarters at Petersburg, Monroe or Suffolk. The roads are almost impassable, and it is thought neither the Yankees nor ourselves can accomplish anything until next Spring.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 3.—The boat from Old Point has arrived. The following Items are gathered from southern papers.

The reported removal of the Capital from Richmond to Nashville is incorrect.

The Southern press is advocating the abolishing of the elective franchise.

The latest advices from Pensacola, represent that the fight had not occurred. Accounts say that had the fight continued, Fort McRea would have been destroyed. No particulars of the affair are given.

The planters throughout the Southern seaboard are represented to be destroying their stocks, lest they should fall into the hands of the Yankees.

A conspiracy of Unionists had been discovered in Mobile, causing great excitement there. Many arrests had been made.

Friendly Feeling of Spain.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The Madrid *Correspondencia Despanola*, recently received here, contains the following paragraph, which shows the friendliness of feeling existing between the Spanish Government and the Church party of Mexico:

"Yesterday took place the long announced visit to her Majesty, the Queen, by General Miramon, Ex-President of Mexico. Our august cousin received him with her usual affability, as also did the King, her husband, who was seated at her side. The conversation lasted for more than a quarter of an hour."

From intelligent sources, it seems there is some foundation for the report that Queen Isabella has made a secret treaty with the Emperor Napoleon, ceding him the Volcanic Islands, provided he will assist her in her designs against Mexico.

Proposed Law against Returning Fugitive Slaves.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Special dispatches state that a resolution will be offered in the House punishing any officer of the army for returning fugitive slaves to their masters.

F. P. Stanton still claims the seat occupied by Jim Lane in the Senate.

Maryland Legislature—Steamer James Adger at Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 3.—The steamer James Adger, from Beaufort, arrived via Fayal and the Azores, has arrived here.

The Maryland Legislature met to-day. An organization will be effected to-morrow, when the Governor's Message will be delivered.

The Treasury Report.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The Secretary of the Treasury's report will not be sent to Congress before Friday.

Movements of McCulloch and Price in Southwest Missouri.

The Rolla correspondent of the St. Louis *Democrat* writes, December 1st:

The rebels, on their march from Springfield to the Osage, were hurried up by a rumor that the Federal forces were crossing the White river into Arkansas, for the purpose of cutting off their rear. Hence the burning and devastation which was made of the country, in order to discommode the Federals and prevent its occupation by the Unionists. Col. Clarkson left Springfield on Sunday, 24th, for Osceola, bringing up the rear.

It is well settled that McCulloch refuses to co-operate with the redoubtable Price. The former was heard to remark, "Price has gone up into Arkansas on a bender-bid-trip, and may go alone." A gentleman who called on McCal lochat Mr. Graves's house, his headquarters while in Springfield, found the rebel General in a moody state. He was reading, at the time, a copy of the *Missouri Republican* of the 16th ult., and appeared absorbed with its contents. He had taken much pains to send for the paper. McCulloch when last heard of was at Little York, headed in the direction of Arkansas. McCulloch has a "Col. Jim Lane" in his division, from Marshall, Harrison county, Texas. The party of Texas Rangers under Col. Stone, who visited Lebanon, joined McCulloch the day he left. McCulloch's troops consisted of five regiments of cavalry, without tents.

It was stated that 5,000 rebel Indians were moving north to the west of Fort Scott, to act in conjunction with Price. One of the rebel officers (Livingston) had returned from the Indian country, and stated that he had hung thirteen and shot thirteen more "Union abolitionists, and sent them to ——"

A friend, who has a copy of Price's proclamation, deems the publication injudicious. He says the publication by the Union papers of this document is precisely what Price wishes. He alludes to the term of service about to expire of many of his men, calls for recruits, and boasts of the achievements already made under the rebel forces, with scant amplifies and a deficient military chest. The train is on the move.

The Missouri Hegira.

[From the Missouri Democrat, Dec. 3d.]

The fact that a number of destitute and suffering families, refugees from the southwest counties of Missouri, where Price's plundering and thieving army are devouring the substance of the inhabitants, have within the last few days arrived in this city, with the little household goods they had saved from the general waste and destruction, has already been announced. Yesterday a stronger illustration was given of the amount of suffering, deprivation and misery, and the extent of desolation and utter poverty now existing among the families of all that region. Twenty or thirty families, consisting of worn down, suffering and apparently ruined men, half-clothed, coal, hungry and woebegone women and children, drawn in creaky, broken wagons, by half-starved mules and oxen, following the almost worthless fragments of furniture and goods they were able to gather from their household wrecks, presented a sad and moving spectacle. Their appearance was that of fugitives from destruction. These people are fleeing from starvation and death. Many of the families who arrived in the city yesterday were provided with quarters temporarily at the public lodging house on Chesnut street, between Main and Second streets.

Through the generosity of the kind people in the vicinity, the immediate wants of the sufferers were supplied, but there still remains much to be done for them by the charitable. Contributions in clothing, hats, caps, shoes, &c., for the little ones, and dresses for the grown females, would afford great relief.

The Chief of Police has been busy providing for them, and has constructed to keep them in their present quarters at the expense of the city, until they are better prepared to proceed on their journey. The emigrants are mostly from Laclede county, and the neighborhood of Springfield. They state that since the recent battles in and near Springfield, they have been deprived of nearly everything, and were at last compelled to seek a living elsewhere. They report that the road between here and Springfield is literally lined with destitute families, who have also been forced to quit the State. The majority of them are on their way to Sangamon county, Illinois.

If any of our readers wish to see some of the bitter results of the civil strife now going on in this State, let them visit the apartment we have named. A more heart-rending spectacle is seldom presented. And each of our kind citizens who desire to do a real act of charity, have an opportunity in contributing their mite to the relief of the distressed families.

The Rebel Steamer Nashville.

(Correspondence of the New York Herald.)

The Rebel steamer Nashville, flying the rebel flag, has arrived at Southampton. She landed Captain Nelson and crew, twenty-nine in number, of the American ship Harvey Birch. Captain Nelson reports that he left Havre on the 17th instant, bound for New York, in ballast; on the 19th was brought to by the Nashville, who at once ordered the Captain and crew on board the steamer allowing them to take a few of their effects and fresh provisions. Captain Pegram then ordered the Harvey Birch to be fired, and laid alongside till she burned to the water's edge. Captain Nelson immediately placed himself in communication with Captain Bristow, United States Consul at Southampton.

The Nashville is still lying in the river, flying the rebel flag. Captain Nelson says that Commander Pegram states that he has no commission from the Southern government as a war steamer, yet declares it not a privateer. No Southern Commissioners arrived by the Nashville.

The whole crew of the Harvey Birch, except the Captain, were placed in irons till the arrival at Southampton. Exhortations were made to induce the Captain and crew to take the oath to the rebel government. Captain Pegram communicated with Mr. Yancey. The Nashville will refit at Southampton.

New Advertisements.

C. H. SCRIVEN, Advertising Agent, 63 Dearborn-st., is authorized to receive Advertisements in this and all the Leading Papers of the Northwest.

WANTED.—Board wanted by a young lady and gentleman, (two rooms) in a private family, on the North Side, near Clark street. References exchanged. Address "Board," Post Office Box 6326. ded-1m5d-11

WANTED.—A smart, active man, accustomed to Packing, can find employment at 119 Lake street. ded-1m5d-11

WANTED.—A smart, active Penman, about 18 or 20 years of age, can find employment at a salary of $20 per month, by giving good references and addressing immediately "B," Tribune Office. If any answers are returned they will find the same office. ded-1m5d-11

WANTED—A young man to take care of a Cow and do chores about the house. Apply to F. H. CUTTING, Room No. 3 Walker's Block, Dearborn street. ded-1m17 2t

MONTHLY NURSE.—A lady of experience wishes engagements as Monthly Nurse. References given. Address "A. G." care of Box 1625, Chicago. ded-1m25-2t

TO RENT.—At $150 per year, the Cottage House No. 129 West Washington street, containing six rooms. Apply on the premises. ded-1m5d-11

FRESH MILCH COWS for sale at Hasee's Stock Farm, one mile south of Harlem Station, known as

HASE'S PARK.

Intending to dedicate my attention exclusively to the embellishment of the Farm, I shall sell the whole of my rich stock of Milch Cows at a sacrifice.

ded-1m5d-11 J. HASE, Post Office, Noyesville.

TEACHERS.—A gentleman and his wife, both graduates, and teachers of several years' successful experience, desire a place in some College, High School or Academy. Testimonials and references given. Address "J. W. H. R.," Post Office Box 646. ded-1m5d-11

Address "J. Teacher, Hertford, Ind.

BOARDING.—Suites of rooms and single rooms can be obtained with Board at 288 State street. Also, a few day boarders can be accommodated. no3-1m5d-w

FOR SALE.—A fine team of black Mules, cheap. Call at No. 344 North Clark street, corner of Chestnut. ded-1m5d-2t

THE CO-PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between Edward Hoffman and Adolf Marcus, under the firm of Hoffman & Marcus is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

E. HOFFMAN,
A. MARCUS.

Chicago, Dec. 4, 1861. de4-1m5d-3t

ADOLF MARCUS WILL CONTINUE the business at the Old Stand,

No. 117 SOUTH CLARK STREET,

Where will be found at all times the Choicest Brands of Cigars and Tobacco. de4-1m5d-3t

The Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1861.

IT "PERSUADES US."

Why not? The country is in imminent danger. The army is full of semi-secessionists, who desire so to make war that no rebel shall be hurt. The Treasury is being depleted at the rate of more than a million a day, entailing burdens upon a dozen generations yet to come. The money runs out as the taxes will by and by be poured on—in sluices; but there is no progress. It is a year and a month since the rebellion broke out. It is seven months since our levies were first made. But what has been done? Let those who can answer that question in such a way as will gladden patriotic hearts at the North, blame us for "pitching in," as they are pleased to designate our earnest demand for more vigorous measures, for overslaughing incompetent, dishonest or disloyal commanders, and for a war policy that means something more than protection to the cause of the contest—human slavery. Is it not time that somebody was pitching in; that the official places in the army were purged of incompetency and well suspected sympathy with rebellion; that a policy was inaugurated which shall not mean one thing in Missouri, another in Kentucky and a third in Virginia, that for the hundreds of millions that are being expended we should get something back in the good fruits. Is it not time that victory perched upon our banners?

CANAL ENLARGEMENT.

The civil war in which our country is now involved, whilst producing calamities which cannot be too deeply deplored, will teach us many useful lessons. The sudden severance of our peaceful relations with the South, which we had reason to hope would continue without interruption, and the unconcealed exultation of certain foreign governments over a rebellion so causeless and wicked that it should be regarded with abhorrence by the whole civilized world, must induce the loyal States to rely more fully upon their own resources and to stimulate their development to the greatest possible extent. How to do this most effectually, should now be the subject of serious inquiry.

The connection of the great Lakes with the Mississippi, by an improvement which will permit the passage *of the largest class of steamboats navigating the Mississippi and its tributaries*, is certainly one of the most important measures to accomplish this desirable object. The construction of some such improvement seems to be now regarded, throughout the loyal States, as a military, commercial and political necessity; and there will probably be some action in relation to it by Congress during its present session; and no time should be lost in placing the subject in its proper light before the public, so far as it is possible to do so with the data already obtained. The more especially is this necessary, as the most crude ideas in relation to such an improvement, its route, probable cost, etc., seems to be still entertained by many gentlemen of intelligence even in our own State, notwithstanding the facts which have been from time to time published.

It would be well for the reader of this article, who is not already perfectly familiar with the topography of the country bordering the Lakes, to examine well the map before he proceeds. He will see that there are small canals in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, connecting Lake Erie with the Ohio river, but experience has shown that, even with the aid of artificial reservoirs, an adequate supply of water for such canals cannot be obtained. Besides, these canals are long, have a large amount of lockage, and debouch into the Ohio river at points where its navigation is frequently interrupted by low water. The construction, therefore, of such an improvement as is proposed from Lake Erie, is simply impossible, or possible only at such a cost as not to be thought of.

It is only necessary, then, to consider the possible connections between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi; and there are but *two* such deserving any consideration. One of these is from Green Bay, by the way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers; and the other from Chicago, by the way of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Illinois river. It will require but a glance at the map and a very slight knowledge of the Fox, Wolf, Wisconsin and Upper Mississippi rivers; the difficulty of improving these rivers so as to make them navigable for even a small class of steamers; the height of the summit between the lake and and the Mississippi rendering a large amount of lockage necessary, &c., &c., to convince any impartial observer that this is not the route for such an improvement as is now contemplated and demanded.

The only route, then, it seems, which deserves serious consideration, is that from Chicago, via the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Illinois river. The Des Plaines river, one of the branches of the Illinois, rising in the State of Wisconsin, runs parallel with the lake shore, and only a few miles from it, bearing east of south, until it reaches a point eight miles southwesterly from Chicago, when its course suddenly changes to the southwest. From this bend in the river to the lake, (or the south branch of Chicago river, which is on the same level,) there is a depression commonly called Mud or Portage Lake, through which the waters of the river, in time of floods, flow into Lake Michigan, and at such times boats of considerable draft have passed over the summit. Mud Lake, which occupied a part of this depression until it was drained off by a ditch cut a few years since, was ten and a half feet above the surface of Lake Michigan at its *lowest stage*. At its present stage, this summit would not be more than seven and a half or eight feet above its surface. Notwithstanding the slight difference of level between the surface of Lake Michigan and the low, flat summit, which now prevents its waters from flowing into the Gulf of Mexico as well as into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the expense of cutting a channel broad and deep enough to accomplish the object desired, will be much greater than has generally been estimated. The fall in the Des Plaines river, from the point where its flood waters flow into the lake, for thirteen and a half miles down the valley, is less than a *foot*, and for five miles farther the fall is not rapid. The whole distance from Chicago river, at Bridgeport (near the southwestern limits of the city), to the point where the lake level runs out, is about 27½ miles, and to the first lock in the original plan of the deep cut, 29½. The distances given are not exact, but near enough for this general statement.

The character of the excavation from Chicago river to the lock above mentioned may be described as follows:

The first eight miles is mainly a compact clay, some of it cemented, with an occasional vein of quicksand; but the excavation could doubtless all be done with the improved steam excavators brought into use in the last few years. The next eleven miles, which is all in the valley of the Des Plaines, will be of much more difficult execution. A very considerable proportion of the excavation would be cemented clay and gravel, and detached rock, with some embedded rock at several different points, but how much cannot be estimated with certainty until the superincumbent earth be removed. The division extending from the Sag to the lock in Lockport, about 10½ miles, will be entirely rock excavation, except a foot or two on the surface. Here the largest amount of work on the "deep cut" plan of the Canal has been performed, and for a wider canal upon the same level, a large amount of loose rock previously excavated would have to be removed.

Such is the character of the work to be done in introducing the waters of Lake Michigan into the valley of the Mississippi. What it will to adequate will be readily understood; though most of the excavation, except the embedded rock, could now be done with machinery. The cost, however, of such a work as is contemplated will be so great that it will not be likely to be executed in this generation, except by the General Government. And why should it not be made by the Government, as it would directly benefit the whole country, and contiguous States would derive nearly as great advantages from it as the State of Illinois, through which it would pass? The numerous river steamers which now navigate the Mississippi and its tributaries, (some 15,000 or 20,000 miles of navigation in *fourteen* different States,) could, without a transhipment, exchange cargoes with the vessels navigating our inland seas. It needs no argument to show the vast advantages to commerce, to manufactures, to producers and consumers, which would ultimately result from this, and the strong bond of union which it would form.

In order to secure any immediate action of Congress on a matter of such vital interest, it may be proper to give, as near as may be from available data, the approximate cost of such an improvement as the Government should construct, if it is to be made of the greatest possible benefit to the nation. No survey with direct reference to a work of such magnitude has been made, and consequently no estimate can be given in detail. But the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and a survey of the Illinois river with reference to the improvement of its navigation by locks and dams, have furnished data for a rough approximation to the cost. The size of the canal estimated, where an independent canal would be required, *is 160 feet wide on the bottom, 163 feet at the surface of the water, and 6 feet deep at the lowest stage of Lake Michigan; the locks 70 feet wide and 350 feet long.* This width is assumed, because nothing less would give ample room for large side-wheel river steamers to pass each other at all points; and the depth, because the Mississippi river itself, between the mouth of the Missouri and Cairo, has no more than 6 feet of water in the channel at a low stage; and in the changing quicksands that form its bed, probably no greater depth could be secured. The difference of level between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi at the mouth of the Illinois, is about 170 feet—only 28 feet of this being the fall in the Illinois river from the western terminus of the canal at LaSalle, to its mouth, a distance of about 220 miles.

The estimate of the canal in earth excavation includes substantial dry stone walls on both sides, of 10 feet in height, 5½ feet thick at the base, and 2 feet at top. The whole length of independent canal which would be necessary, would be about fifty miles. Thirty-seven miles of this distance would be between Chicago river and Lake Joliet (an expansion of the Des Plaines river,) about eleven miles immediately above Ottawa; and the balance in short canals around the dams on the Des Plaines and Illinois rivers, in connection with the locks. Rock foundations could be secured for all the dams above LaSalle, and below this, should the river be improved by the construction of locks and dams (the most *certain* mode of securing a depth of water of 6 feet at all times,) there would be no difficulty in making the dams secure, though rock foundations could not be obtained. The dams should be so low as not to raise the water enough to overflow even the low bottom lands to any extent. The plan of the canal and the river improvement proposed, as it will be observed, is adapted to the navigation of a very large class of *river steamboats*, but not to *ships*. It is proposed to give as great a depth of water in the *canal* as can be depended upon in the rivers, and more than this would be of no practical advantage.

There have been such various opinions given to the public in relation to the cost of the Summit division of the canal, (from Chicago to Lockdort,) that it may be proper to give the approximate quantities which would have to be excavated to make a canal 160 feet wide. The present line of canal would be adopted from the Sag to Lockport, through the rock work, and the most of the way where the canal is in the valley of the Des Plaines. From the Des Plaines to Chicago river, it is somewhat doubtful whether it would be better to adhere to the present line, or adopt a new one thorough what was once Mud Lake. The difference in quantity and cost, taking into consideration the amount of excavation which would be saved by adopting the present line, would not be great.

	Excavation. cub. yds.	Cost per cub. yd.	Total cost.
From Chicago river to Desplaines river....	4,200,000	.35	$1,480,000
From Summit to Lockport. Walls for 19 miles in earth excavation..	5,400,000	.35	1,890,000
	316,000	2.20	740,000
From the first First Lock, rock excav'n, inclusive of re-excavated....	2,443,000	.90	2,019,700
Earth excavation and removal of rock ex-cavated....	900,000	.15	137,000
Total cost from Chicago to Lockport.			$7,092,700
Cost of 31 miles of independent canal be-tween Chicago and Lockport.			2,750,000
Dams and locks for the improvement of the Des Plaines and Illinois rivers....			4,500,000
Superintendence and contingencies.....			657,300
Total cost of improvement.....			$15,000,000

Notwithstanding the imperfect data from which the above estimate is made, it is believed not to be very far from the truth; and the cost would be more likely to fall short of *fifteen millions of dollars* than to exceed that sum. It is expected, of course, that economy will be exercised in the construction of the work, and no margin has, consequently, been left for *stealings*. If these cannot be prevented in army contracts, they certainly could be here by the exercise of proper vigilance. It is true, that $15,000,000 is a large sum, but where on the surface of the whole earth, would an equal amount accomplish an object of equal importance?

Military Troubles in Michigan.

The Chandler Horse Guards, a battalion of 200 men under Major William C. Hughes, in Michigan, has been mustered out of the service by Capt. Mizner, U. S. A., after having cost the Government $50,000. The reason for this was that Major Hughes, finding he could not continue in command, so mystified the rolls that it was impossible to get out of the entanglement in any other way than by disbanding. The men were sore displeased, and one of the Captains (Fish) gave Major Hughes a thrashing with a rawhide well laid on. This Hughes is a Dayton adventurer, and came over here to Chicago, last summer, with a company for Col. Mulligan's regiment; which company smashed up in about the same way as this battalion. We hope he will subside now.

The 11th infantry regiment, Col. Wm. J. May, recruited at White Pigeon, has also been the subject of much trouble. The regiment was commenced several months ago, and has cost the Government about $150,000 already, with $50,000 more to be added. The regiment is said to be under orders for Kentucky, and it is well that it should be off. There are 400 on the sick list, and unless the troops are put into the field soon the regiment will be demoralized by sickness and discontent. One company, raised by Capt. Smith, as fusileers, was disbanded last week, because it was found that Col. May had no authority to attach such a company to his command, and the men would not serve as infantry.

The Affair at Ripon.

The first intelligence of the attack upon the *Star* office at Ripon, Wis., came to us as a brief news dispatch. Next we received a communication defending Col. Daniels from the charge of inciting the attack made by his men upon what *was* alleged to be a sheet of secession proclivities. We have before us a note from Mr. A. P. Mapes, the editor thus visited, enclosing a paper numerously signed by highly respectable townsmen, of all parties, endorsing his loyalty to the fullest extent, and stamping the whole affair as an outrage growing out of local causes, of which we have no knowledge, nor the desire to stir in our columns. The loyalty of the *Star* is intact, and there is in Wisconsin a remedy for its redress and protection against all mobs. As we have before made no editorial reference to the case, we must decline to burden our columns with long documents relating to it, at this time.

☞ A vigorous appeal for volunteers in a Vicksburg paper thus closes: "Every volunteer from this State and Louisiana *is a gentleman. He must be treated as such.* No dock passage, no hard commons for him, if it can be avoided. He is an honor as well as a defence to his country." That will read as strange talk to the poor white trash of the South, to the embodied rock, could now b

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Congress and the Slavery Question.

Thanksgiving Day and one of its Features—The Slavery Question Hypermixed again—Probable Action of Congress—The Confiscation Question—Its Incidental to Gen. Arnold's Case—Many Contrabands—Eastern Shore of Virginia—The New Armory, Lake Defences, &c.—A General Conflagration Last Night—Small Attendance of Congress.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1861.

This is Thanksgiving Day in Washington as well as Chicago. The fact would hardly be worth noticing, as the beginning of this correspondence, but for the following paragraph which appears in this morning's *Republican*:

"There are a large number of poor, forsaken, and forgotten men, women and children, *in our city jail*, whose hearts would be gladdened by the sight of a Thanksgiving dinner. They have committed no crime but that of escaping from slavery and secession masters, and though *plenty* only is a *horrible prison*, their hearts are as loyal as those who will this day praise God for permitting them to live in a land of liberty."

Why these forsaken creatures are held in the city dungeon, I do not know, and therefore will not undertake to say at present. It is hardly probable that the Government contemplates remanding them to slavery, after boarding them during the war.

The slavery question has employed the best energies of Congress, at every session, since 1845. It bids fair to engross the attention of this Congress, at the session which commences next Monday, to a degree which will overshadow everything else. And why should it not? There is a just God, before whom slavery stands a stupendous crime. Thomas Jefferson trembled in view of it. Little more than a quarter of a century has passed since he penned his *Notes on Virginia*, recording his convictions and fears of the future to overtake the country which thus defies the justice of the Almighty—and what do we see? No need to look at Virginia specially, with her deserted villages and bloodstained fields. The nation presents a more imposing picture, in the million of men—nay, more than a million—who confront each other to-day with fixed bayonets on a line of fifteen hundred miles, marking the boundaries of slavery and freedom. Does any one say that slavery is not the cause, the very *sole* cause, of the war? Such a person is either a secessionist at heart, and would exult in his country's downfall, or he is a lunatic and ought to be furnished at once with the conveniences which society provides for that class of unfortunates. Why should not Congress bestir itself once more about the slavery question, and make an end of it?

Perhaps one-half of the members have now arrived—not more. Nearly all are dissatisfied with the four months' work which has been done, or left undone, since they adjourned in extra session; and while there is some difference of opinion as to military errors and their remedies, there is none, so far as I can find, as to the one sovereign remedy for the whole disease. I am of the opinion that Congress will direct the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, to wipe out slavery utterly in every State which refuses to have secession driven from its bosom. Whether the act be called confiscation or emancipation makes no practical difference. The more radical and earnest members of both Houses agree that it must be done, because

1st. It is right.
2nd. It is expedient.
3rd. It is necessary.

The conservatives either reverse the order of the propositions, or assert only the third. No man, except a few hide-bound officers of the regular army and Mr. Secretary Smith, pretends to say that the rebellion could not have now *over six hundred thousand men* under pay in the army alone. This I know to be a fact. The numbers in the navy, and those in all departments, teamsters, armorers, etc. Here, in and around Washington, are more soldiers than any mortal man can manœuvre in battle. What is the use of saying more? They would only trample each other to death like buffaloes. The ground on which they are expected to operate is the worst in the world for handling large bodies. If we can do nothing with any force which it would be possible to raise. If Gen. McClellan were all at once drilled as the handful of old regulars who were reviewed day before yesterday, we might hope for speedy results; but the discipline of an army is rather impaired than increased by the addition of new recruits. It does seem that anything which we can hope to accomplish in the way of mere carnage, can as well be done by the present force as with one five times as large. The Beaufort expedition has resulted in nothing thus far but the addition of glory to the already glorious army. Affairs are at a dead lock in Western Virginia; ditto Kentucky; ditto Missouri. But these are not the worst evils. The money question is getting to be one of alarming importance. The daily expenses of the War and Navy Departments are nearer two million dollars than one million. The country can stand that little till while, but not forever. And for the time that it will take to put down the rebellion and preserve slavery. Then the patience of the country, constantly drawn upon by the burdens of war and the derangement of commerce, tried by deferred hopes and severely exercised by disasters on the field—even this will break down in many hearts. I succeed to overthrow Jeff. Davis and preserve the institution in behalf of which he has avowedly initiated the war. Foreign intervention, too, may be excused if they do not see any present prospect of a re-establishment of the Government in part of the seceded States. All Europe will recognize *Jeff. Davis* as the power when Generals develop that kind of strategy which will enable them to conquer the rebels and save intact the cause of the rebellion.

What will the Administration recommend? Forney's *Press* is understood to be as deep in the secrets of the Government as any newspaper, and I observe that in the Washington correspondence of this morning says, referring to the emancipation question in Congress, that "the truest friend of freedom is he who refrains from pressing the question at present." Delphic, and the reader is at liberty to get the true intent and meaning out of it at his leisure. The *National Intelligencer*, on the other hand, alluding to a letter written by Mr. Segur, the newly elected member of Congress from the Fortress Monroe District of Virginia, in Gen. Dix's absence, to the effect that if the war is to be waged against "the great institution" of the South, he (Mr. Segur) and his friends will take up arms against the Government, says with "the answer Mr. Segur gets his arms ready the better." Mr. Segur is one of those "Union" men who love slavery a great deal better than they do their country, or anything else that could be named. We have spent a good many millions of dollars, we have sacrificed a good many hundreds of lives, and we have added conscience, manhood, self respect and the sympathy of the world, to acquire—what? The privilege of giving Mr. Segur a seat in the House of Representatives and $3,000 per year, under a threat that if we do not conduct the war so as to preserve and keep alive *the cause of it*, he and his friends will be treated ill.

A healthy tone is pervading the army. In passing one of our camps on the Washington Branch Railroad, yesterday, a few miles from Bladensburg, a full view of the train, on which was inscribed the words "NO SLAVERY," Colonel John Cochrane's speech you have already had the substance of, Fremont Major-Gen'l, and Farnsworth made a brief speech to his men on the occasion of a sword presentation to himself by the Whitestown county boys in June last. Col. F. said that if the war was to be simply a scheme for mutual slaughter without any high and noble end to be obtained, he did not care to wear a sword—he would rather go back to Illinois and attend to his own business. There was no fault to find in sanctions of trade. But if he could see that his efforts and those of his men were tending to wipe out the curse of the war, and give *permanent* peace to the country and joy to posterity, he did not care whether he should ever go back to Illinois or not. These sentiments were received with cheers and the declaration by the intelligent hundred soldiers under his command. Not a dissenting voice was heard. Col. Farnsworth's regiment, by the way, has been assigned to Gen. Sumner's division, and will be the only cavalry in it.

An amusing incident happened a few days since down in Ann Arundel, county Maryland. A fugitive slave came into the camp of the 21st Massachusetts regiment, with his back pretty badly cut up and pickled. The rebel master appeared and demanded Colonel Hagri (an Italian officer, and lately a professor in Harvard College) for his chattel. The Lieut. Colonel refused to deliver. The master then sent his application to the Colonel of the regiment, who was temporarily absent, and procured an order for the surrender of the thing. The Lieutenant Colonel still refused to deliver. The case was then taken to Baltimore and laid before Gen. Dix. The General has had enough, perhaps too much, of this sort of business on his hands already. He would not interfere further than to advise the master to get out a civil process, put it in the hands of the sheriff, and direct him to serve it on the contumacious Maggi, and then start and see the result—as though it were some novel experiment in chemistry. The advice was followed to the letter, and the sheriff of the county presented himself at the camp of the 21st Massachusetts. The Lieut. Colonel looked at his papers and didn't know any thing about them. He was not there to study the laws of Maryland or the ordinances of Ann Arundel county. "But," said the sheriff, "this is done by Gen. Dix's order." Lieut. Col. Maggi read the paper again, but, not seeing Gen. Dix's autograph, remarked upon that important omission. In other words, he "couldn't see it." "Then," said the sheriff, "I shall be compelled to arrest you;" and sure enough he proceeded to do it. Action and reaction were equal in this case, or rather reaction was the stoutest of the two, for the sheriff instantly found himself in the guard house, where he has remained ever since, refusing to be released except by the order of some high and mighty judge—Mr. Taney, perhaps. The fugitive, meanwhile, is thriving under the care of the surgeon, and proves to be an excellent cook.

Gen. Dix says that the conversion of the eastern shore of Virginia (Accomac and Northampton counties) is a useful and thorough—that those who were lately in arms against the Government are eagerly enlisting under its banner, and that they are unanimous for dealing a separation from the rebellious portion of the State.

Mr. Arnold is laboring indefatigably for the Armory and the Western lake defences. He has also laid the deplorable condition of Chicago harbor before Secretary Chase, in the hope of procuring some kind of a recommendation or suggestion concerning that and kindred subjects in his forthcoming report. It is hoped that, at least, enough money will be appropriated to keep the harbor open.

Among the earliest measures to be considered by Congress will be a general confiscation of rebel property, as sweeping as the resolution set for the Jeff. Davis government. Judge Trumbull, as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, will introduce it in that body. Probably the amendment to the confiscation act of eleven months ago will be made in the House. There is much diversity of opinion as to the use of terms in the confiscation act. Some prefer that the word emancipation shall be the name of the measure, and are inclined to think that the former will be defeated, to some smaller some people's prejudices, or to enable them to be consistent with their own former creeds. Everybody can agree to confiscate rebel property, while some think they cannot consistently emancipate a slave. The result is all the same.

None of the "accessh" members have yet arrived, and it is believed that their number will be materially reduced at this session. Mr. Vallandigham-dam-tudenhammer, of Ohio, will be here, of course, to spit out his treasonable venom, but Breckinridge, Powell and Burnett, of Kentucky, are not expected. Polk and Johnson, of Missouri, are hardly looked for. Mr. May, of Maryland, is in Fort Warren, and Jesse D. Bright, of Indiana, is supposed to be in Richmond. *If* a course towards Fort Warren would be tolerably direct if he should show his face anywhere north of our army lines.

THE MISSOURI IMBROGLIO.

The Duty of Illinois in the Matter.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

ST. LOUIS, December 1st, 1861.

Your State is receiving a large accession to its population at the expense of Missouri. Hundreds of men, women, and children, are crossing the river from West to East, and thus the natural course of emigration is reversed.

This is the result of the fiendish efforts of Jackson, Price, and others to delude the ignorant into the belief that they are doing well to drive away all who are not secessionists. The leaders—as you can judge by the infamous proclamation lately issued by Price—have lost the last spark of the humanity, reason, and justice that once glimmered in their minds, and their deluded tools have learned to pillage, to burn, and to exterminate with a malignity that correspond with the badness and hopelessness of their cause.

It is by hundreds I see their victims sadly plodding along towards the Mississippi, and casting longing glances towards their "promised land." These much wronged people are loyal citizens, and, consequently, industrious, enterprising and honest. They are of the best material of our State, and will be so of yours.

They are not paupers; but alas, how like. I have spoken to with them. They are natives of Kentucky, of Tennessee, of Illinois, of Virginia, and other States. These refugees desire a resting place for the women and children, the old and infirm, in your State, which, although not *blessed*, nor cursed with slavery, is a haven of security for all who sojourn there.

I take the liberty of suggesting that something be done for these homeless people, and that is the object of this communication. They are destitute, but have strong arms and willing hearts, wagons, household utensils, bedding and what scanty supply of half starved draft oxen the heartless enemy chose to leave them.

Will your worthy Governor, or some other prominent citizen of Illinois, send an agent to this city, or Illinoistown, who shall be instructed to take these refugees by the hand, and provide them with such information as will lead to their being speedily settled in a way to procure a living. The sooner that is done the better It will be for the country. The women are strong and used to work, and many of the men are anxious again to shoulder the rifle and fight the vandals in Missouri or elsewhere.

The exercises will continue for some time, and will probably be increased in volume before this will reach you. Illinois is receiving the bone and sinew of Missouri. Let her welcome these hardy and industrious people, who will help to make her prairie land blossom like the rose.

A. L. R.

Military Mismanagement in Kentucky.

If stupidity and incompetence in our military commanders in Kentucky are not just now bearing an abundant crop of evils, then must these abuses whose existence is not to be disputed, be accredited to causes even more dishonorable to these officers. If the history of this or any other war can produce parallels to the damning evidence rolled up against Generals Smith and Thomas, we have yet to learn of them. It is well enough to argue, in the abstract, as some of our cotemporaries do, that campaigns cannot be conducted in editorial sanctums remote from the scene of action, but we submit that even such remoteness would form no reasonable excuse for the cruel and wicked neglect of duty, of which by no worse term, which, emanating from Headquarters in Kentucky, are wearing out the strength and spirit of our forces, inflicting upon them every possible evil of bad generalship, disgusting and dismaying Union men in that section, and making worse than a thoroughly unprofitable job of the entire campaign.

As to General Thomas, he was with Patterson, and is Patterson intensified, for whereas the latter did not act at all, the wrong-headed blundering of the former is worse than any possible effect of inertness. The evidence against him comes from various sources, and already a storm of indignation is raging throughout Ohio at his cruel derelictions, acts of omission in neglect of her troops, and of commission in such instances as the recent shameful retrograde from London. Let us group together a few facts.

Gen. Thomas's army was, week before last, moving towards Cumberland Gap in pursuit of Zollicoffer. None were more jubilant in that force, all of whom were eager for a fight, than the two loyal Tennessee regiments who were burning to avenge the wrongs the rebel hordes had inflicted on their homes. Inexplicably, and to the astonishment of all, the order was suddenly issued that an about face should be executed, and the march ended at London, and a retrograde was ordered. So disgusted and outraged were the Tennessee troops, that an open demonstration was only prevented by countermanding the order as regarded them, but this was not until half of them had deserted.

The sad forced march of these Ohio troops of Thomas from London to Crab Orchard, beggars all description, and the result of it has been the death of many of the men. They dropped all along the road from sheer exhaustion. Says one account:

"The order was promulgated at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and the moving was at night. The order said that the sick must also be brought along, and the consequence was that in the wagon roads that cannot be described, that horrible night march took place. The sick in the ambulances—the worst cases—for a sick man can have a bad road—begged to be taken out and put on the top of the baggage, and well men were compelled to drop by the way. The ambulances were utterly useless was proved by the fact that the troops, after arriving at Crab Orchard, remained there three days.

But this is not the worst of it. These troops worn out, and many of them on the sick list, received orders for Lebanon, which they reached after a toilsome march of forty miles through mud and snow, on Sunday the 24th inst., only to *again be retrograded to Somerset*, "to repel a demonstration of Zollicoffer," so that the close of last week saw them again within twenty-five miles of London, the place of their halt in the movement towards Cumberland Gap. Let this statement be compared with distances on the map, and it will be seen that our Federal troops in Gen. Thomas's army after crossing and recrossing eight counties, and *one hundred and eighty miles* of heavy winter roads, are now near their old place, their intermediate toils and sufferings wholly wasted.

Now, do not these things constitute evidence enough against General Thomas? Neglect of the troops and inattention to the wants of the sick has been the rule in his command, and the most shameful feature of the Kentucky campaign. At Crab Orchard, in the hasty winter bivouac, the first order issued was not to provide firewood, but that under severe penalties *no one should touch the fence rails*. Loyal Ohio is justly enraged at this shameful waste of the vigor and loyalty of her soldiers. How much longer is it to continue?

General Henry W. Benham.

It is stated that Gen. Benham is under arrest, at Gauley, for letting Floyd escape through his cowardice, disobedience of orders, or bad management. This will be a grievous disappointment to the people of the West, who have watched Gen. Benham's course during the summer with pride and pleasure, and have regarded him as one of the *few live* Generals in the service. The Cincinnati correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says:

"Gen. Schenck and Capt. Platt, who have arrived from Gauley, bring strange reports concerning Gen. Benham. It is the conviction of Rosecrans and all the other officers, *that Floyd was fast through the obstacle covering the Kanawha.* Gen. Benham was charged with a force and ordered to rush forward, short day's march, to cut off the retreat of Floyd, who was receding before our main force. But he (Gen. B.) loitered between six or eight days on Lake Creek, marching up the hill, and then down again, while our army was having knapsacks and muskets to pursue the thief triple quick."

The Cincinnati *Commercial* also says:

"It is quite unlikely that Gen. Benham is justly charged with cowardice. His name has been too honorably and honorably associated with the fact has been the death of many of the men. They dropped all along the road from sheer exhaustion. Says one account:

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Jno. W. S. Gurnee, Stephen Bowen, Esq.
Jno. V. Farwell, Esq. A. G. Burley, Esq.
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To Stockholders.

OFFICE OF THE GALENA AND CHICAGO UNION RAILROAD CO.,
CHICAGO, NOV. 20th, 1861.

Notice to Stockholders.

At a Stated Meeting of the Board of Directors, held this day, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a dividend of five per cent. on the capital stock of this company be, and the same is hereby declared, payable on the 1st day of December next, at the office of the Company in the City of Chicago, on the first day of January next to the holders of the shares of the capital stock of the Company, as they shall appear on the books of the Company on the 1st day of December next, in exchange on New York.

W. B. OGDEN,
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sep21-y272 SANBORN.

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The Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1861.

THE CITY.

GOOD NEWS.—The Central Skating Park will be open in a few days.

FALSE ALARM.—The alarm of fire for the first district, yesterday afternoon, was occasioned by a bonfire on Clark street.

APPOINTMENT.—Dr. Thomas Rice, of this city, has been appointed Surgeon of the gunboat Essex at St. Louis.

SOLDIER'S FESTIVAL.—No person is authorized to solicit subscriptions for the approaching festival who has not a duly authorized book to contain subscriptions and donations for that purpose.

THE CONGRESSIONAL GLOBE.—Those about to subscribe for the present session would find it to their advantage to call on McNally & Co., 81 Dearborn street, who have already a large list of names which will be forwarded to Washington in a few days.

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.—The monthly meeting of the Board will be held at the Home this (Wednesday) afternoon at 3 o'clock. All those ladies interested in the late fair and festival are especially desired to attend.

E. T. DICKINSON, Sec'y.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.—There was no session of the Board of Supervisors yesterday, the members being absent upon their customary term-visit to the Poor House. In the meantime the Chairman is making up his committee which will be reported to-day.

CHANGE ON DEARBORN STREET.—Wadhams, Willard & Co., have removed their Ice office from the Masonic Temple to No. 1 Van Fleet's building, corner of Dearborn and Madison streets. Entrance to the rooms, stairway on Dearborn street. Those who have not yet paid their Ice bills will find the new location convenient for them.

Rev. Dr. Tiffany's Sermon.

In another place will be found the sermon delivered by Rev. Dr. Tiffany on Sunday evening last, upon "The Unwritten History of the Rebellion," for the manuscript of which we are indebted to the *Northwestern Christian Advocate*. We commend the sermon to our readers as a timely and eloquent production.

THE STATE HORTICULTURAL CONVENTION.

ADDRESSES OF THE OFFICERS.

REVISIONS OF THE FRUIT LISTS.

Discussion on Small Fruits.

FIRST DAY.

The annual meeting of the State Horticultural Society, as advertised, convened at Bryan Hall at ten o'clock yesterday morning. The representation was not large but if lacking in point of numbers this was more than compensated by the energy and earnestness of those present.

Dr. Kennicott took the Chair, and Mr. C. T. Chase, one of the Secretaries, being the only representative present of that office, had Mr. Flagg of Madison county appointed as an assistant.

On motion of C. P. Bragdon, Messrs. Edgar Sanders, Overman, Mann, Starr and Bragdon were appointed a committee to report an order of business by the Chair.

President Kennicott introduced the subject of the receipt of plants in a frozen state and the manner of their treatment.

Dr. Kennicott said he had had a great many trees frozen and had lost but one lot. When these were packed and properly thawed he had not lost a tree. He generally left his business, took his trees home, took a piece of fine soft ground, stripped the bundles as well as he could, laid them in a trough, and took them out in the spring all right. Another lot he put down cellar, where the temperature was about 40 deg., and let them thaw out gradually. He was of the opinion that in the case of hardy plants, when properly packed, one gradual thawing did not hurt them in the least. In covering in the ground, great care should be taken to have the earth come in close contact with the root, to exclude the air. In regard to packing, he thought that puddling the clay was the best and most satisfactory manner with which he was acquainted. The clay becomes solid and does not freeze out.

The Committee on Business reported, through C. P. Bragdon, the following order of business, which was adopted: 1st. Admission of Members. 2d. Address of the President. 3d. Address of Dr. Kennicott. 4th. Reports of Committees. 5th. Reading of Communications. 6th. Reading and Revision of Fruit Lists.

The following gentlemen came forward, paid their admission fees and were declared members of the society:

C. R. Overman, Bloomington, Illinois; James R. Starr, Alton; Charles Merritt, Battle Creek, Michigan; E. H. Kimball, Chicago; Jonathan Miller, Mackinaw, Tazewell county; Jonathan Higgins, Woodburn, Tazwell county; A. R. Whitney, Franklin, Bureau county; Robert Sanders, Lake Marshall county; W. H. Hanson, Franklin, Bureau county; J. F. Nash, Ottawa, LaSalle county; W. C. Flagg, Moro, Madison county; Mr. Mallory, Muskegan; James Crow, Crystal Lake, McHenry county; Richard H. Holden, Bloomington, Ill.; J. H. McChesney, Chicago.

The welcoming address of C. P. Bragdon, Esq., of the Chicago Gardeners' Society, followed. It was happily conceived and most appropriate.

Dr. Kennicott replied substantially as follows:

We came here not so much for our own pleasure and profit, as for the benefit of the Northwest. In this only we must all take a part. The readiest writers and addressers are not always the best instructors. We should not jump at conclusions. We must have no axes to grind. I am making my last lecture, and am glad to see so many men in what I say. I have followed practical horticulture for a quarter of a century, but be that as it may, attending the last legislature I was induced by men to advocate a special charter—an appropriation of $200 to $1,000. I refused to do it. Nothing of the sort only was received, except from one, a ruralgnesher of Cook county, one from Lake county, and the remainder from the agricultural colleges of Illinois. The state Agricultural report was all we could get. The servants of the people had much or much to do. Other matters were of more importance, and liable to pay better for legislation. This took all the benefit out of your agents, but not in the least diminish his confidence in the honesty of politicians.

As a society we are no more than before. We can print an report ourselves. And I doubt not the meeted men of Chicago will aid us a little. Railroads and our other institutions are under great debted to my young friend, Chas. P. Bragdon, for valuable aid. The Galena and Chicago Union and Northwestern Railroads pass our members home free; the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy return at $2 per cent. The Illinois Central has also come